

Wasatch Co. Building Survey

Name of Building: Thomas Todd Cabin

Information Required	Date Found
Location:	
Address: <u>435 E 400 E</u> Town: <u>Heber</u>	
Architect:	
Builders: <u>Thomas Todd & friends</u>	
Building Material: <u>probably Cottonwood logs</u>	
Style of Building: <u>12' x 14' log</u>	
Date Built: <u>about June 1867</u> <u>(They arrived in May 1860)</u>	
Original Owners: <u>Thomas Todd & Margaret Shankland</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FGS	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pedigree	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Histories	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pictures	
Subsequent Owners: <u>none</u>	
Notes: <u>Hawthorne trees were near the cabin & poplar trees all along the East side of the 1/2 block lot.</u>	
References: <u>1. Interview w Roy Todd 11/20/90</u>	
<u>2.</u>	

THOMAS AND MARGARET TODD



Thomas Todd Sr. was born January 28, 1821, in Scotland, son of John and Marion Lorimer Todd.

He married Margaret Shankland in January, 1850, on her twenty-fifth birthday, and moved to Heber City in May, 1860.

In 1900 they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Margaret Todd died in 1907, in her eighty-third year, and in 1909, Thomas Todd passed away, being 88 years of age.

Nine children were born to this couple: John, James, Thomas Jr., Margaret, Marion Jane, Isabelle Helen, Sarah Ann, John M. Murdoch and David Alexander.



*Hawthornes Trees grew around it
It sat back in lot just east of
the 1879 red sand stone home*

THOMAS AND MARGARET TODD



Thomas Todd Sr. was born January 28, 1821, in Scotland, son of John and Marion Lorimer Todd.

He married Margaret Shankland in January, 1850, on her twenty-fifth birthday, and moved to Heber City in May, 1860.

In 1900 they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Margaret Todd died in 1907, in her eighty-third year, and in 1909, Thomas Todd passed away, being 88 years of age.

Nine children were born to this couple: John, James, Thomas Jr., Margaret, Marion Jane, Isabelle Helen, Sarah Ann, John M. Murdoch and David Alexander.

As he recalled his early childhood, he was most impressed by the deep religious convictions of his parents. Throughout his life he gave expression to the love he held for his brothers and sisters. They, too, in their letters to him were continually expressing their love for him and for each other.

He was reared in an atmosphere of strict adherence to prayer and in promptness and orderliness. These characteristics he never deserted.

Thomas Todd was a farmer, as was his father, working often as a servant plowman.

He was in his early twenties when he began work in public service. It was at this

HEBER BIOGRAPHIES

time that he, along with some other young men, assisted in establishing a library in the town of Tinwald.

In January, 1850, he was married to Margaret Shankland, second daughter of James Shankland and Margaret Cummin of Durnisdeer, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, in her twenty-fifth year.

These two young people had much in common in the similarity of their early training. Both had been taught stern adherence to their religious convictions. Both were trained to be industrious, true and meticulously neat and orderly. These virtues characterized their whole lives.

During the summer of the year of their marriage they accepted the teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Four years later, Thomas Todd, his wife Margaret and their two sons sailed from Liverpool on the ship "John M. Wood," landing in New Orleans in eight weeks. From there they took a river boat up the Mississippi to St. Louis, then on to Kansas, where they made preparations to make a land journey of 1,200 miles by ox team.

Thomas Todd was appointed to take charge of 10 wagons across the plains. There were 10 persons to a wagon. That long journey across the plains lasted three months, lacking one day, and they reached Salt Lake Valley on October 1, 1854.

Immediately after his arrival he made arrangements with Brother Levi Savage to work his land on shares. He planted 9½ acres of wheat before the winter storms came.

The following spring, 1855, his fields looked good, but the grasshoppers came again and destroyed fields far and near. Thomas and Margaret were successful in saving a part of their wheat.

When the grain was ripe the two of them pulled the whole of their crop by hand. Half of this harvest belonged to the land owner. They were happy to have their 19½ bushels of wheat.

In the fall of 1857 he bought a cow, the "first cow I ever owned," he said. They sold bedding to raise the \$40 to pay for it.

Shortly after this, Thomas Todd was called to Echo Canyon when Johnston's army was on its way to Utah. He was 66 days before returning to Salt Lake City. Again, in the early spring, he was called to

go to Echo Canyon and Lost Station as a captain of 50 men. This time they were out about four months, until the close of the Utah war. While he was away his family was moved to Spanish Fork, to the home of James Laird.

When his release came he went to Spanish Fork, where he bought a lot for \$10. Here he built a two-room house.

The Todd family made their next and last big move in May, 1860, when they came to Heber City in the beautiful Provo Valley. Thomas had previously taken up some land and fenced it, planting five or six acres in wheat.

It was during the following year that Fort Sumpter was surrendered to the Confederate army and, as in other communities of our nation, the state militia was organized. John Wesley Witt was appointed major and Thomas Todd was appointed first captain of the infantry.

He served two terms as beginning in 1862 and the He was appointed road surveyor. He held many years. Later county road commissioner. opportunity to sign, with other, treaty to settle the Indian title to Tabby.

Thomas Todd never wavered from the gospel. He was full his calling in this capacity. He presided over the Sixth Ward in Salt Lake later ordained a Seventy.

In Spanish Fork he was the Quorum of Seventy, and to Heber was first counsel. Priests' Quorum. Later he counselor to two bishops.

He was a very good singer in the Heber choir many years.

The custom of a 24-gun salute at a commencement of the Fourth of July was instituted by Thomas Todd through his influence.

With all his activities in greatest achievement was in with his good wife, Thomas were the parents of eight children. They lived in a home of love, understanding and fairness to each other.

Their lovely home, with its beautiful

flowers and well-kept garden, was their joy. Many a rare plant was nurtured to bloom and it was in this garden that the first rose bushes in Provo Valley were planted.

Their home was made attractive with Margaret Todd's handiwork. In addition to being an excellent housekeeper, she was a wonderful cook and a gracious hostess. She was an artist in her selections and a perfectionist in her skills in the home arts of her time.

This hard-working couple had little patience with lazy or shiftless people, but were ever ready to help any who came their way. They extended the hand of fellowship to many who needed their blessing.

In 1900 they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary with an open house in their home.

Margaret Todd died in 1907, in her eighty-third year, and two years later her

J. H.

THOMAS TODD

Into Wasatch County came one man who had as much determination, perhaps more, than anyone who ever came. This man was Thomas Todd. He says, "I was a great Bible reader and I became dissatisfied with my religious beliefs and my father's."

Thomas married in January, 1850, and on September 15, 1850 he joined the Church and began to want to join the body of the Church. No amount of pleading or intreaty—no form of bribery could induce him to stay in Scotland. Shortly before they were to leave, his oldest son died. His people felt he would not leave that little grave alone for the sake of a strange religion which they could not accept. Thomas' brother, Alexander, came as far as New York with them. Alexander even offered Thomas one-half of all his earthly possessions if he would return. Thomas chose his church and Wasatch County and never lost one second in regrets.

He took his turn in standing guard in Echo Canyon to resist Johnson's Army. When he got back home his family had been moved to Spanish Fork where he joined them. He participated in the Black Hawk War. He came to Wasatch in 1860 or 1861.

On May 17, 1863 Pres. Wm. M. Wall and Bishop Stacy Murdock ordered the Sacrament administered for the first time in Wasatch County at the home of Thomas Todd. He held many church and civic positions.

He was noted for his fine buildings and his mansion of a home. For a pioneer dwelling it was a masterpiece and still is. Whether the building was small or elaborate he built them well. p13



